



KAZOKU

Trailblazers ~ Part 2

By Jerry Figgiani

In my last column I reintroduced Ansei Ueshiro, the first Okinawan karate instructor out of the Nagamine Dojo, to come to the USA in 1962. In this addition, I will spotlight Chotoku Omine. He was sent to the USA by Grand Master Shoshin Nagamine in 1969.

With the arrival of Omine, the structure of Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu would change forever. It was a political move that would let Master Nagamine take back control of what Ansei Ueshiro started to build up here in the United States. It was a move as to what some would term "clean up the mess." Ueshiro was known for his heavy kumite classes and lack of teaching the katas according to how Master Nagamine wanted them to be taught.


It was at this time that Master Nagamine put Chotoku Omine in charge. This decision turned out to cause a split in Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu, with some students staying loyal to Ueshiro and others loyal to Omine.

Omine was known for his excellent kata and the classic lines that we see today in Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu. He was especially known for his Naihanchi Katas. His influence is still felt today, even though his time in the United States was short lived. He passed away in 1975. I have the honor of having an original student of Omine Sensei in my dojo. He is 77 year old Eddie Chin. When reflecting on Omine Sensei, Mr. Chin stated "As a student of Omine

Sensei, not much had to be said. You could feel his energy during his presence. Alone, he generated strength and vitality. His positive attitude gave secure feelings to his students. His teaching created a physical and mental state of learning which is still with me today. "

As Master Nagamine had his own thoughts on the mastery of Karate Do, so did Omine Sensei. They were passed down to me by my Sensei Joseph Carbonara, who stayed loyal to Omine Sensei from 1969 when he first arrived. Chotoku Omine Sensei's recommendations are as follows;

1. "I have long ago sworn to myself that I would devote my whole life to teaching, the right way of karate."
2. "Criticize others not at all. To criticize yourself is the study. If you see someone doing wrong, use it as a reference for yourself, not to do."
3. "Don't have likes and dislikes. Don't compare. Don't stick your mind to the past. Train in concentration. Don't set your mind against anyone."
4. "I believe in the human being. I have patience. I can wait for them to understand."
5. "From morning to evening keep on saying, thanks for everything. I have no complaints whatsoever."

All we can do is remind ourselves to follow the path. Stay the course and success lies ahead. 

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(left to right) Omine, Nagamine and Ueshiro



Omine and Carbonara



Omine Sensei

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